



## Spring Fisheries Survey Summary Mud/Callahan Lake, Sawyer County, 2014

The Hayward DNR Fisheries Management Team conducted a fyke netting survey on Mud/Callahan Lake on May 20, 2014 targeting muskellunge, black crappie, and northern pike. Six nets were set (2 in Callahan, 4 in Mud) for one night. An electrofishing survey was conducted on June 9, 2014 to document the status of largemouth bass and bluegill. Four and a half miles were shocked throughout the two connected lakes. Quality, preferred, and memorable sizes referenced in this summary are based on standard proportions of world record lengths developed for each species by the American Fisheries Society.

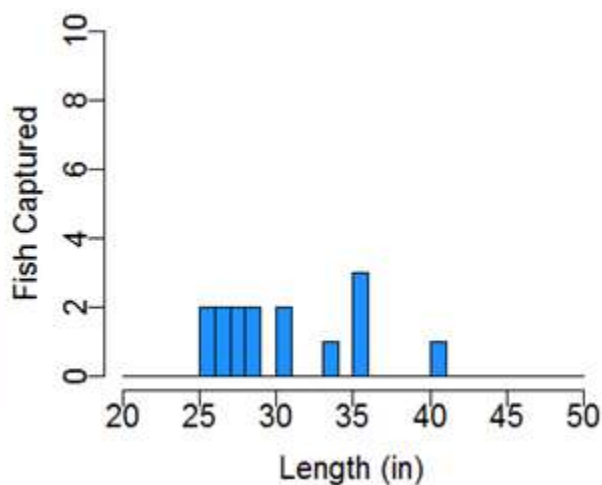
### Description of Habitat and Survey Conditions

Mud/Callahan Lake is shallow with somewhat stained water and abundant aquatic plant growth and bogs. The two original lakes are now essentially one water body since the water level was raised through impoundment and have been surveyed and regulated jointly. Our netting survey was well timed for target species but the electrofishing survey seemed to miss the largemouth bass spawn which could have affected the sample.

**Muskellunge**



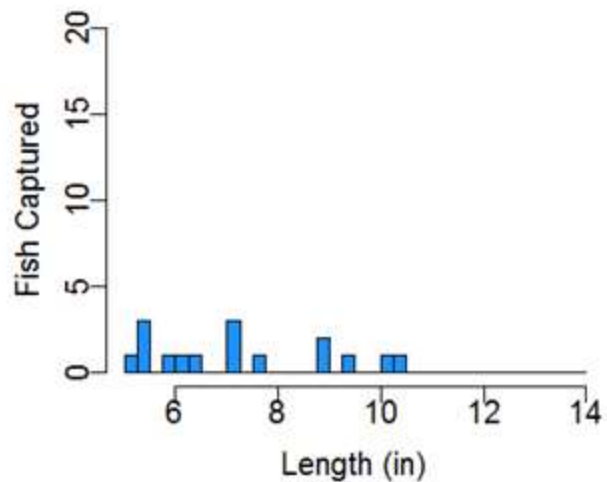
Captured 2.5 per net-night $\geq 20$ inches	
Quality Size $\geq 30$ "	47%
Memorable Size $\geq 42$ "	0%



### Black Crappie



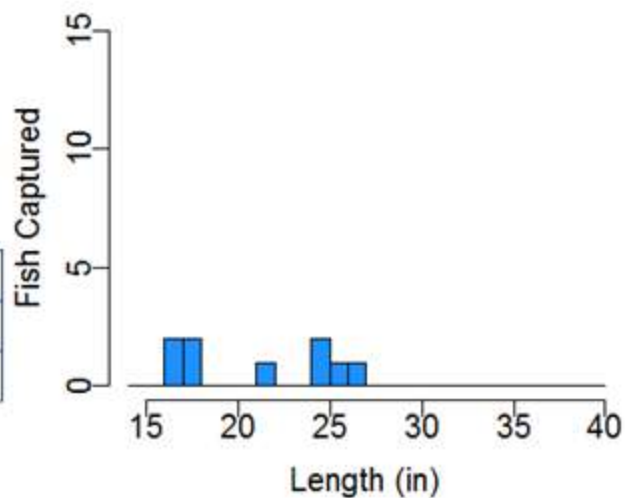
Captured 3 per net-night $\geq 5$ inches	
Quality Size $\geq 8$ "	31%
Preferred Size $\geq 10$ "	13%



### Northern Pike



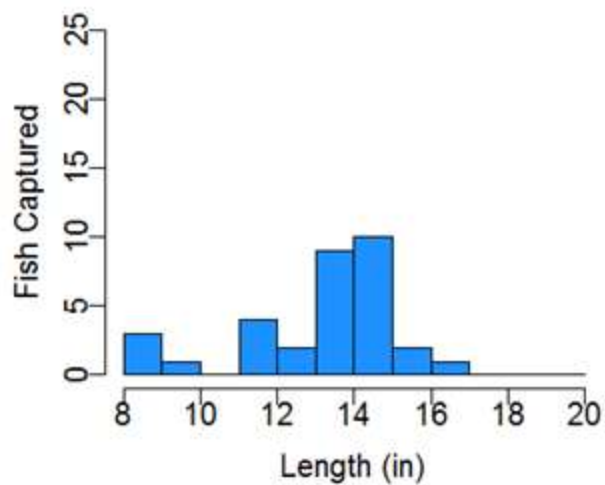
Captured 1.5 per net-night $\geq 14$ inches	
Quality Size $\geq 21$ "	56%
Preferred Size $\geq 28$ "	0%



### Largemouth bass



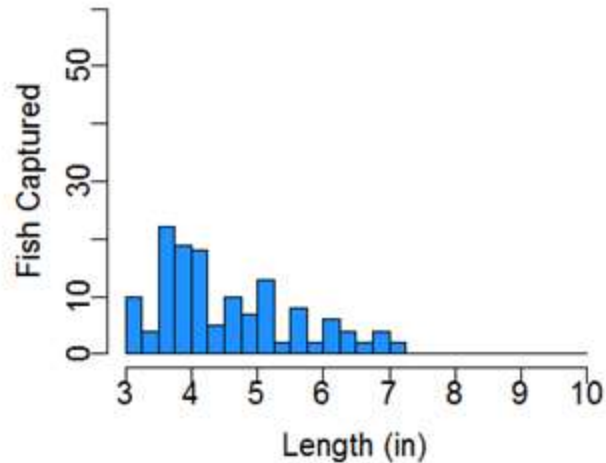
Captured 8 per mile $\geq 8$ inches	
Quality Size $\geq 12$ "	75%
Preferred Size $\geq 15$ "	9%



### Bluegill



Captured 92 per mile $\geq 3$ inches	
Quality Size $\geq 6"$	13%
Preferred Size $\geq 8"$	0%



## Summary of Results

Muskellunge were captured at a high rate which fits with the history of Mud/Callahan Lake as a high density “action” musky fishery. Size was also as expected with mostly smaller fish (<40 inches) in the survey. This lake is still a great action fishery and is considered an excellent place for beginning musky anglers.

Crappie were captured at a low rate but some quality sized individuals appeared in the survey.

Nine northern pike of a variety of sizes were captured during the netting survey. This is the first time that northern pike have appeared in significant numbers in a DNR survey of this lake which lines up with angler reports of more and more pike being caught here. It is believed that pike were illegally introduced to the Chief River area (including also Spider Lake and the Tiger Cat Flowage) sometime in the 90’s. Numbers of pike have been steadily growing since that time and have the potential to threaten the existing muskellunge population through predation and/or competition. The DNR and local lake associations are encouraging the harvest of northern pike of all sizes in these lakes.

Largemouth bass were captured at a moderate to low density with many quality sized individuals. Mud/Callahan is a popular bass fishing destination because of this healthy bass population and the abundance of good bass habitat to fish.

Bluegill were captured at a moderate rate but size was poor. Lack of an effective predator combined with angler harvest probably limits the size potential of this population.



**Fisheries Technician Russ Warwick and volunteer Dan Seibert hold a Mud/Callahan musky in the cradle before releasing it.**

Report by Max Wolter – Fisheries Biologist, Sawyer County  
Survey conducted by Max Wolter, Russ Warwick (Fisheries Technician), and Scott Braden (Fisheries Technician)  
Special thanks to volunteer Dan Seibert  
Reviewed and Approved by Steve Avelallemant